

### **The occurrence of a *Cacyneus* species (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in Majorca**

In April 1990 I was in a friend's garden in Majorca watching for butterflies when I noticed a small, dark butterfly flying around geraniums and pelargoniums. The upperside was chocolate brown with black and white chequered fringe and a small tail with very small lunule at its base. The underside was patterned grey and brown.

A number of photographs were taken and from these the insect was identified as a *Cacyneus* species, possibly *ethiopicus*, but it is impossible from a photograph to determine the species of this notoriously difficult genus. *Cacyneus* is a predominantly southern and central African genus which extends northwards to the southern fringes of the Sahara. As far as I am aware, this genus has not been recorded from Europe or North Africa.

Interestingly we observed further specimens in the nearby town of Magaluf, suggesting that the butterfly may be breeding on Majorca. Several members of this genus feed on geranium and pelargonium and they may have been introduced with plants, or possibly as windborne immigrants in one of the Sahara "dust storms". I am grateful to Dr C.J. Luckens for his helpful comments of this genus.— E.M. RAYNOR, 15 Nash Meadow, South Warnborough, Hants RG25 1RJ.

### **Hazards of butterfly collecting in tropical places**

Torben Larsen's account of collecting in the Tsavo National Park (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **102**: 39) recalls many enjoyable times spent studying insects in unusual places. Like him, I have not often found wildlife to be a hazard.

Wild creatures normally try to avoid trouble, and the deranged individual which sees Man as a meal is pretty rare. However, one must avoid surprising an animal, or moving inside its personal "space". In some places, this can mean keeping a sharp eye open for elephants or buffaloes, or in the old days, rhino. But mostly it involves moving without too much disturbance, though not necessarily entirely in silence. Snakes in particular find it convenient to be forewarned of one's approach, although in thirty years in Africa I cannot recall having been alarmed by a snake while collecting.

Only twice did I have an encounter with the big cats. On one occasion, on the Nyika Plateau on the Zambia/Malawi border, I had put a trap for *Charaxes* butterflies inside the forest edge. When I went to collect it, a leopard in the bushes coughed discreetly, to advise that I was getting too close. This put me in a quandary, as I had no intention of abandoning my trap. So I advanced slowly, chatting to the animal as though to my wife's Siamese cat (equally dangerous at times!). The ploy worked and I recovered my *Charaxes*.

The second incident was more dramatic. I had driven from Sumbu to Nkamba, around the south end of Lake Tanganyika in northern Zambia,